

Coast Guard family. She knows that with 40 percent of the Coast Guard being women, we need to have good policies that will continue to encourage them to stay in the Coast Guard and move up in leadership, just as she has done. I know under her, we will build world-class, state-of-the-art facilities to help all our Coasties and all our Coast families. I know that we will continue to be proud of the mission of the Coast Guard in continuing to have those many, many challenges that they help us deal with every single day.

But tonight, we are doing more than just helping. We are confirming Admiral Fagan. We are sending a strong message to women serving in the Coast Guard. We are sending a strong message to women cadets and the Academy and training people at Cape May. We are sending a strong message to young girls who dream of someday serving in the Coast Guard. We are saying now, that the leader of this organization, that your service matters, your contribution to the Coast Guard and to the country matters, and, yes, you too can be Commandant someday.

I want to thank Admiral Fagan for her tremendous service, and I thank my colleagues for joining me tonight to vote to confirm Admiral Linda Fagan to be Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on Commerce being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Committee on Commerce from further consideration of the nomination of Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided, between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 777, Christopher Joseph Lowman, of Virginia, to be an As-

sistant Secretary of Defense; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be notified immediately of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14 U.S.C., section 2121(d):

To be rear admiral

Michael H. Day

The following named officer for appointment as Deputy Commandant for Operations, a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 305:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Peter W. Gautier

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Commandant in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated pursuant to the authority of title 14, U.S.C., section 304:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Steven D. Poulin

The following named officer for appointment as Commandant in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated pursuant to the authority of title 14, U.S.C., section 302:

To be admiral

Adm. Linda L. Fagan

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 305:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Kevin E. Lunday

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 305:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Andrew J. Tiongson

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRE AT AHUAS, HONDURAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 10 years ago today a joint counternarcotics team of Honduran security agents and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration—DEA—officers opened fire on a water taxi as it approached Ahuas, a small town located in the remote Mosquitia region of northeastern Honduras.

The canoe-like taxi was carrying families traveling between the indigenous Miskito villages that populate the shores of the Patuca River when it was shot at repeatedly by the counternarcotics officers, leaving two women, a teenage boy, and a 21-year-old man dead and several other passengers injured. While the Honduran police announced that a "successful" drug interdiction mission had taken place, journalists and human rights advocates reported the victims were unarmed and had no known links to drug trafficking.

Instead of taking responsibility, assessing their mistakes, and examining their methods and partnerships with Honduran security forces, DEA and State Department officials obstructed U.S. and Honduran investigations of the incident and falsely reported to Members of Congress, including my staff, that the boat's passengers had fired on security forces. They also insisted that the DEA bore no responsibility for the discharging of weapons and had only played a supportive and advisory role during the mission. After the horrifying events of May 11, 2012, the DEA continued joint operations using battlefield tactics in the area that resulted in two more fatal shootings. Following one of these incidents, the Honduran police team leader was reported to have been instructed by his superiors to plant a weapon into evidence.

It was only thanks to a joint Department of Justice and Department of State Inspector General investigation report—published 5 years ago—that Congress was able to learn the truth about Ahuas and the two other fatal shootings. DEA agents had in fact played a central, leading role in the lethal operation. They had ordered a Honduran machine gunner to open fire on the water taxi and never verified whether DEA weapons had been discharged. The DEA's repeated assertions that someone on the boat had fired a weapon were found to not be credible.